

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MAPUTO 00861 071825Z

ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7165

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 0861

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

LUSAKA FOR LOW

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PDEV, MZ, RH, UK, US

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: MUGABE'S CONCERN WITH ALLEGED STATEMENT BY
US OFFICIAL

REF: MAPUTO 0856

1. ZANU SEC GEN TEKERE AND DEP SEC D. MUTASA MET WITH AMBASSADOR AND DCM LATE AFTERNOON 7 JULY CONCERNING ALLEGED STATEMENTS ON RHODESIA SETTLEMENT BY AN UNNAMED US STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL. TEKERE SAID REPORT WAS CARRIED ON SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO AND HAD AROUSED THE CONCERN OF PRESIDENT MUGABE FOR TWO REASONS. FIRST, BECAUSE IT FOLLOWED SO SOON AFTER JULY 6 MEETING BETWEEN MUGABE AND GRAHAM/LOW, AT WHICH PRINCIPALS AGREED THERE WOULD BE NO LEAKS. SECOND, BECAUSE ALLEGED STATEMENT SEEMED TO INDICATE THAT PF WAS MOVING IN DIRECTION OF DIRECT TALKS WITH INTERNAL SETTLEMENT LEADERS.

2. TEKERE ADDED THAT MUGABE WAS AFRAID THIS MIGHT BE A REPEAT OF PRESS REPORTS THAT FOLLOWS THE DAR CONFERENCE, WHICH, IN HIS OPINION, PAINTED AN INACCURATE PICTURE OF PF POSITIONS.

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PAGE 02 MAPUTO 00861 071825Z

3. AMBASSADOR THANKED TEKERE FOR COMING TO EMBASSY FOR MEETING, ASSURED HIM THAT YESTERDAY'S DISCUSSION IS BEING VERY TIGHTLY HELD--EVEN WITHIN US/UK GOVERNMENT CIRCLES, AND EMPHASIZED THAT WE HAD NOT GIVEN ANY INFORMATION TO THE PRESS CONCERNING RECENT MEETINGS. HE NOTED THAT SABC HAS TAILORED MANY STORIES TO SUIT ITS OWN PURPOSES AND IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT NEWS REPORT WAS BASED ON REPORTS OF GRAHAM/LOW MEETINGS OVER PAST FEW DAYS.

AMBASSADOR ADDED THAT BOTH BRITISH AND US EMBASSY REPORTS ON MEETING WITH MUGABE AND TEKERE HAD BEEN CABLED TO WASHINGTON LATE EVENING LOCAL TIME 6 JULY AND THERE NO WAS US OFFICIAL COULD HAVE DRAWN ON THE REPORT. TEKERE SEEMED GENERALLY REASSURED BY AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS.

4. AMBASSADOR THEN RAISED RECENT REPORTS CONCERNING ZANU DEFECTIONS AND THE REPORTED PRESENCE OF 15 ZANU MEMBERS IN SWAZILAND. TEKERE SAID SUCH REPORTS ARE QUOTE UTTER RUBBISH UNQUOTE AND DISMISSED THE STORY. HE CLAIMED THAT GISON SITHOLE IS A MENTALLY-DISTURBED ZANU MEMBER WHO HE ACKNOWLEDGED IS IN SWAZILAND.
DE PREE

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